

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

June 3rd 2013

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Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



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<http://www.cbc.ca/calgary/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

prisoner (person in jail)	security (guarded for protection)	lawyer
threat (possible trouble)	radical (extreme; not normal)	plead (answer/declare)
guilty (did the crime)	commit (to have done something)	maximum (highest)

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Guantanamo – an American prison in Cuba created in 2002 to hold people accused of terrorism

1. I knew my daughter was _____ of eating cookies when I saw crumbs on her face. When I asked her, she _____ she had eaten only one.
2. There is a lot of _____ at an airport.
3. My son was considered _____ when he dyed his hair purple and got many piercings. People were scared of his appearance, but he was not a _____.
4. A person who _____ a crime should be punished by law.
5. A _____ is released from jail after serving the time determined by a judge.
6. The _____ punishment given is *life in prison*.
7. Every criminal is able to have a _____ to help them in court.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Former Guantanamo prisoner Omar Khadr is _____.	a) is now in Edmonton b) is now in jail in Ontario
2. After months in isolation at a jail _____, he was moved to the maximum security Institution _____.	a) in Ontario / in Edmonton b) in Edmonton / in Ontario
3. His lawyer hopes this move will be a chance for people to see Khadr is _____ and has no radical views.	a) not threatening people in Canada b) no threat to Canada
4. Khadr was born in _____ 26 years ago.	a) Toronto b) Alberta
5. Khadr was moved to _____ from _____ last September.	a) Canada / Afghanistan b) Canada / Guantanamo
6. He pleaded guilty to _____ when he was 15 years old in Afghanistan.	a) threatening Canada b) committing war crimes

Discussion Question

Do you think it is possible for criminals to be rehabilitated (to change for the better)?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. racial tension	a) to put a knife in something with force
	2. soldier	b) a heavy knife with a long blade
	3. stab	c) people who saw a crime happen
	4. barracks	d) gatherings to show a group's anger or disappointment
	5. suspects	e) anxiety, stress between different ethnic groups
	6. witnesses	f) buildings where army personnel live
	7. meat cleaver	g) hurt
	8. wounded	h) repeated disturbances or attacks
	9. protests	i) a person who works for an army
	10. harassment	j) people the police believe committed a crime

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

Islamic extremist – people with a very conservative Islamic view

English Defence League – (a right-wing group) a group of people who oppose Islamic extremists

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ There is now little racial tension in some parts of Britain.
2. ____ A soldier, Lee Rigby, was killed in London, possibly by Islamic extremists.
3. ____ Rigby was first stabbed by two men then hit by a car.
4. ____ Witnesses took pictures of the event with their cell phones.
5. ____ Two men with bloody knives were shot and wounded by police.
6. ____ More than 10 people have been arrested in this case.
7. ____ The English Defence League has had many protests since the death of Rigby.
8. ____ There has been a decrease of attacks in the Muslim community.

Discussion Question

What are some ways citizens can help stop racial tensions? Do you feel there is much racial tension here in Alberta? Explain.

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

The words below are from the third news story. Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) connection	a) crazy a joke
	2) arrested	b) supposedly as stated
	3) accused	c) to put in jail caught by police
	4) allegedly	d) premeditated killing planned death
	5) crack cocaine	e) blamed charged with
	6) ridiculous	f) association relationship
	7) first degree murder	g) illegal drug coke

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Matching

Match the beginning of the sentences heard in the news story to their ending.

___ 1. There's an Alberta connection to the ever-changing story	a) in Fort McMurray.
___ 2. Hanad Mohamed faces first degree murder charges	b) showing Rob Ford smoking crack cocaine.
___ 3. RCMP say Mohamed was arrested	c) about the video ridiculous.
___ 4. The Toronto man he is accused of killing is	d) in the death of a Toronto man.
___ 5. Toronto Star reporters say they saw a video	e) in the past week.
___ 6. Ford has called the story	f) about Toronto Mayor Rob Ford.
___ 7. Several of his staff members have left	g) in a photo with mayor Rob Ford given to the Toronto Star newspaper.

Discussion Question

The mayor of Toronto, Rob Ford, has been accused of doing illegal drugs. How important is it for public figures to keep a clean and honest image?

Language Focus

Determining the order of events

It can often be difficult to understand what happened first, second and third in a story. News reporters and writers do not always write chronologically (in order of time) and they do not always use familiar adverbs such as *first, next, then...* It is important to be able to determine the correct order of events of a story.

Let's look at our first story this week to learn some ways we can determine the order of events:

1. "**Former** Guantanamo prisoner Omar Khadr is **now** in Edmonton."

Key words: In this first sentence there are key words that help you determine which event is first and which is next. **Former** means before now. **Latter** means later in time. **Now** is used to show the present.

2. "He was moved to the maximum security Edmonton Institution after months in isolation at a jail in Ontario."

Prepositions of time: In this sentence a subordinate clause beginning with a preposition of time is used to show the order of events.

After months in isolation at a jail in Ontario, he was moved to the maximum security Edmonton Institution.

3. "The Toronto-born Khadr, who **is** now 26, **was moved** to Canada last September to finish an eight-year sentence for war crimes he **pleaded** guilty to committing as a 15 year old in Afghanistan."

Verb tense: verbs will help you determine some of the order: present tense, past tense (and past perfect tense).

Numbers (ages, dates), Months, Days: In this sentence the numbers and month given will help you. Khadr was born in Toronto. He pleaded guilty when he was 15 years old in Afghanistan. Last September he was moved to Canada. Khadr is now 26.

Look at these sentences from the second story and identify the order of events:

"Racial tensions **are** high in some areas of Britain **after** a soldier **was** killed in London in a what is thought to be an Islamic extremist attack. 25 year old Lee Rigby was **first** hit by a car and **then** stabbed by two men near his barracks"

"The English Defence League, a right-wing group, **has held** a number of protests **after** the killing, and Muslim community organizations **have reported** a rise in attacks and harassment."

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	JUNE 3 RD WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for June 3 rd .	0:00
Story 1	Former Guantanamo prisoner Omar Khadr is now in Edmonton. He was moved to the maximum security Edmonton Institution after months in isolation at a jail in Ontario. His Edmonton lawyer Dennis Edney says he hopes this is a new start for Khadr, and a chance for people to see he is no threat to Canada and has no radical views. The Toronto-born Khadr, who is now 26, was moved to Canada last September to finish an eight-year sentence for war crimes he pleaded guilty to committing as a 15 year old in Afghanistan.	0:08
Story 2	Racial tensions are high in some areas of Britain after a soldier was killed in London in what is thought to be an Islamic extremist attack. 25-year-old Lee Rigby was first hit by a car and then stabbed by two men near his barracks. Photographs from witnesses' cell phones showed two men with bloody knives and meat cleavers. Both suspects were shot and wounded by police at the scene. A total of 10 people have been arrested in the case. The English Defence League, a right-wing group, has held a number of protests after the killing, and Muslim community organizations have reported a rise in attacks and harassment.	0:49
Story 3	There's an Alberta connection to the ever-changing story about Toronto Mayor Rob Ford. Hanad Mohamed faces a first-degree murder charge in the death of a Toronto man. The RCMP say Mohamed was arrested in Fort McMurray. The Toronto man he's accused of killing is in a photo with Mayor Rob Ford given to the Toronto Star newspaper and a website called Gawker. Toronto Star reporters say they saw a video allegedly showing Ford smoking crack cocaine. Ford has called the story about the video ridiculous. Several of his staff members have left in the past week.	1:35

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

1. I knew my daughter was guilty of eating cookies when I saw crumbs on her face. When I asked her, she pleaded she had eaten only one.
2. There is a lot of security at an airport.
3. My son was considered radical when he dyed his hair purple and got many piercings. People were scared of his appearance, but he was not a threat.
4. A person who commits a crime should be punished by law.
5. A prisoner is released from jail after serving the time determined by a judge.
6. The maximum punishment given is *life in prison*.
7. Every criminal is able to have a lawyer to help them in court.

Listening

1. Former Guantanamo prisoner Omar Khadr is _____.	a) is now in Edmonton b) is now in jail in Ontario
2. After months in isolation at a jail _____, he was moved to the maximum security Institution _____.	a) in Ontario / in Edmonton b) in Edmonton / in Ontario
3. His lawyer hopes this move will be a chance for people to see Khadr is _____ and has no radical views.	a) not threatening people in Canada b) no threat to Canada
4. Khadr was born in _____ 26 years ago.	a) Toronto b) Alberta
5. Khadr was moved to _____ from _____ last September.	a) Canada / Afghanistan b) Canada / Guantanamo
6. He pleaded guilty to _____ when he was 15 years old in Afghanistan.	a) threatening Canada b) committing war crimes

News story 2

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
e	1. racial tension	a) to put a knife in something with force
i	2. soldier	b) a heavy knife with a long blade
a	3. stab	c) people who saw a crime happen
f	4. barracks	d) gatherings to show a group's anger or disappointment
j	5. suspects	e) anxiety, stress between different ethnic groups
c	6. witnesses	f) buildings where army personnel live
b	7. meat cleaver	g) hurt

g	8. wounded	h) repeated disturbances or attacks
d	9. protests	i) a person who works for an army
h	10. harassment	j) people the police believe committed a crime

Listening

1. **F** There is now **little** racial tension in some parts of Britain.
2. **T** A soldier, Lee Rigby, was killed in London, possibly by Islamic extremists.
3. **F** Rigby was **first** stabbed by two men, **then** hit by a car.
4. **T** Witnesses took pictures of the event with their cell phones.
5. **T** Two men with bloody knives were shot and wounded by police.
6. **F** **More than** 10 people have been arrested in this case.
7. **T** The English Defence League has had many protests since the death of Rigby.
8. **F** There has been a **decrease** of attacks in the Muslim community.

News story 3

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
f	1) connection	a) crazy a joke
c	2) arrested	b) supposedly as stated
e	3) accused	c) to put in jail caught by police
b	4) allegedly	d) premeditated killing planned death
g	5) crack cocaine	e) blamed charged with
a	6) ridiculous	f) association relationship
d	7) first degree murder	g) illegal drug coke

Listening

f 1. There's an Alberta connection to the ever-changing story	a) in Fort McMurray.
d 2. Hanad Mohamed faces first degree murder charges	b) showing Rob Ford smoking crack cocaine.
a 3. RCMP say Mohamed was arrested	c) about the video ridiculous.
g 4. The Toronto man he is accused of killing is	d) in the death of a Toronto man.

<u> b </u> 5. Toronto Star reporters say they saw a video	e) in the past week.
<u> c </u> 6. Ford has called the story	f) about Toronto Mayor Rob Ford.
<u> e </u> 7. Several of his staff members have left	g) in a photo with mayor Rob Ford given to the Toronto Star newspaper.

Language Focus

“Racial tensions **are** high in some areas of Britain **after** a soldier **was** killed in London in a what is thought to be an Islamic extremist attack. 25 year old Lee Rigby was **first** hit by a car and **then** stabbed by two men near his barracks”

Soldier was killed – he was hit by a car then stabbed...now tensions are high

“The English Defence League, a right-wing group, **has held** a number of protests **after** the killing, and Muslim community organizations **have reported** a rise in attacks and harassment.”

The killing then Protests and attacks on the Muslim community